

October 2013

Viper FRG Newsletter

Special Points of Interest:

Trunk or Treat
29 Oct

Halloween
31 Oct

Molly Pitcher Day
16 Nov

Upcoming events

Viper Challenge winners

Volunteer opportunities

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"TOUGH, PROUD, and DISCIPLINED"

Battery Commander- CPT Ben Blane

Families, friends, and Soldiers of the Viper Battery,

As this is my first newsletter as Battery Commander, I just wanted to say what a privilege and honor it is for my wife, Janice, and me to be a part of this great organization. In the short time I have been here, I have been absolutely amazed at the high standards of excellence this Team sets for itself and continues to achieve.

In September, Soldiers from every section competed in the annual "Viper Challenge." The competition pitted three teams of 12 Soldiers against one another throughout a three day competition as they battled for bragging rights and the coveted Viper Cup. The event tested Soldiers in over 100 Warrior Tasks including small unit tactics, marksmanship, land navigation, media engagement, and proficiency in first aid skills. On day three of the event, the competition culminated with a three Blackhawk Air Assault

onto All American PZ followed by the Viper Physical Challenge on Ritz-Epps Field. This event not only allowed Soldiers to demonstrate their proficiency in Warrior Tasks but provided an opportunity for the Soldiers across different sections to work together as a Team while strengthening individual resiliency though physically, mentally, and (in some cases) emotionally demanding events. Overall, the Vipers' performance during this event was extremely impressive and you all should be truly proud of your Soldiers.

In the upcoming months, we shift focus from individual skills into support of Brigade level events while maintaining focus on Soldier and Family Fitness as we transition into the holiday season. We hope to see families participate in our Trunk-or-Treat event for Halloween as well as the annual Christmas party as they are guaranteed to be great events!

Over the last few



months, the Soldiers of the Viper Battery have set the example for professional conduct on and off duty. I wanted to thank each of you as, without a doubt, your support of these Soldiers is what drives us to achieve higher levels each and every day.

Viper Strike!

CPT Ben Blane



Battery First Sergeant- 1SG James Gray

Greetings Viper families,

I hope everyone has been enjoying a blessed year filled with family, friends, and love.

I would like to thank the soldiers for the amazing accomplishments they have made over the last several months. We have been very busy and will continue to be throughout the upcoming months. I am proud and appreciative of all the hard work and team spirit everyone has been demonstrating in their daily

tasks. It is great to work among some of the best that the Army has to offer. Continue to strive to be the best. You are doing an awesome job!

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers, spouses, and other family members that supports the FRG with their time, effort and participation. The families are a key aspect of the unit's readiness, and the efforts of our volunteers are what make our FRG effective. All that you do is

appreciated.

To all the new soldiers and families I would like to say welcome to the unit.

Lastly, God bless you all and thank you for what you do.



Hello Viper Family,

My name is Valerie Gray. I am your new FRG Leader. I am looking forward to serving you and learning a lot from you as well. I would like to thank you in advance for your help and support of our FRG. Please come out and participate. If you would like to be a part of the FRG, please contact me at 910-723-8764 or vdgray@aol.com. Your great ideas, selfless giving of your time and talent, and caring attitude is much appreciated and desired.

On the 3rd of July we had a BBQ. It was a great turn out. Thank you so much. I would like to apologize again for the magician being late. The event not only had great food cooked by our soldiers and families, but we also

had a dunk tank, bouncy house, giveaways, and a magician.

July 9th we went out to Pike Park and sold lunch to our hard-working soldiers. I would like to thank each and every one of those men and women for supporting the FRG. It is greatly appreciated.

Coming up on the 29th of October we will be having Trunk or Treat. I am sure that we will be a great turn out as well as the other events you have supported thus far.

December 11th will be our Holiday Party right before our hard-working soldiers start their half day schedule and start planning vacation time.

I would like to thank our wonderful committee who is helping to create these wonderful events Amy

Hartzell (Treasurer), Danielle Heberle (Secretary), Heather Highley (Key Caller), Prudence Smith (Key Caller), and of course we would not be able to do it without the leadership of CPT Blane, 1SG Gray and our FRG Advisor Lynn Smith.

I am looking forward to meeting our new families at our upcoming events. It's great to have you as part of the Viper family.



Chaplin's Corner-

"The Viper Soldier and the Blustery Day"

In the Disney classic cartoon, "Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day", Winnie the Pooh and his friends experience a day full of troublesome events, all produced by an unexpected change in the weather. The wind blows in and their lives turn upside down.

Have you ever had one of those days? Blown over by a storm? Tossed in the air by a gust of wind—or a sudden change in mission? Every time we PCS, we work to unpack and settle into our new home. We look to establish routines and 'normalcy' (whatever that is!). And just as soon as we think we have

everything in place, along comes that gust of wind.

In the book of Luke in the Bible, the disciples find themselves in the midst of a storm—on a very blustery day. They seek Jesus for help and "He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." Luke 8:24-25 (NIV)

This Fall season, as varying weather fronts move in and days change from sunny, to wet and windy, I encourage you to look at those blustery days of challenge in a positive

light. Find joy in the leaves piled at your front door. Find joy in chasing after a blown trashcan. Find joy in the rain and the puddles—you know your kids will! Find joy in muddy boots and wet goulashes. During their blustery day, Owl said, "This is just a mild spring zephyr compared to the big wind of '67. Or was it, uh, '76? Oh, well, no matter. Oh, I remember the big blow well." And Piglet replied, "I'll remember this one, too." Seek joy today during those wild days, so that tomorrow you will remember smiles and giggles and not just the frustration.

Let the wind blow!



Dates to Remember

OCTOBER:

- Marriage Resiliency Workshop: Tuesday, 01 Oct (Belmont House)
- Marriage Resiliency Workshop: Thursday, 03 Oct (Belmont House)
- Pay Day Activities: Friday, 04 Oct
- Mary Walker Submissions Due: Monday, 07 Oct
- Columbus Day: Friday, 11 Oct – Monday, 14 Oct
- DIV Family Newcomer Orientation: Wednesday, 16 Oct
- Iron Mike Ceremony: Tuesday, 29 Oct (1600 at the Ft. Bragg Club)
- Halloween (1500 Release): Thursday, 31 Oct

NOVEMBER:

- Pay Day Activities: Friday, 01 Nov
- Veterans Day: Friday 08 Nov – Monday, 11 Nov
- Molly Pitcher Day: Saturday, 16 Nov (comp day TBD)
- DIV Family Newcomer Orientation: Wednesday, 20 Nov
- Thanksgiving Holiday: Thursday, 28 Nov – Sunday, 01 Dec

DECEMBER:

- Pay Day Activities: Friday, 06 Dec
- DIV Family Newcomer Orientation: Wednesday, 18 Dec
- Christmas Holiday: [Concurrent Leave Period Monday, 16 Dec – Thursday, 02 Jan]
- Half Day Schedule: Monday, 16-Friday, 20 Dec
- Training Holiday: Saturday, 21-

- Monday, 23 Dec
- Half Day Schedule: Tuesday, 24 Dec
- Christmas Holiday: Wednesday, 25 Dec
- Half Day Schedule: Thursday, 26- Friday, 27 Dec
- Training Holiday: Saturday, 28- Monday, 30 Dec
- Half Day Schedule: Tuesday, 31 Dec

JANUARY:

- New Years DONSA: Wednesday, 01 Jan
- Back to work: Thursday, 02 Jan
- DIV Family Newcomer Orientation: Wednesday, 15 Jan
- MLK Training Holiday: Friday, 17-Monday, 20 Jan

Viper Challenge Sept 18-20

Viper Challenge Wining Team

SSG Law (S6)
SSG Heberle (S6)
SPC Johnson (S1)
SPC Lewis (FCE)
SPC Kemp (FCE)
SPC Laister (S1)
SPC Deforges (Supply)
SPC Martinez (Behavioral Health)
PFC Villarreal (S6)
PFC Estridge (FCE)
PFC Juarez (Medics)
PFC Scott (Behavioral Health)





HHB, 18th Fires BDE (ABN)

2175 Reilly Road, Stop A
Fort Bragg, NC 28310

**Tough, Proud, and Disciplined
Viper Strike**

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/18th-Fires-Brigade-Airborne/127645070844>

Spouse Resilience Academy 2013

Learn skills to overcome obstacles and how to bounce back from life's challenges
*all dates within each month must be completed to receive full credit
** Priority slots are for Active Duty Spouses
What is Resilience? See description on other side.

Concept Block 1	Concept Block 2	Concept Block 3
Module 1 - Feb 5	Module 1 - Jun 4	Module 1 - Oct 1
Module 2 (units 1 & 2) - Feb 12	Module 2 (units 1 & 2) - Jun 11	Module 2 (units 1 & 2) - Oct 8
Module 2 (units 3-5) - Feb 19	Module 2 (units 3-5) - Jun 18	Module 2 (units 3-5) - Oct 15
Module 2 (units 6 & 7) - Feb 26	Module 2 (units 6 & 7) - Jun 25	Module 2 (units 6 & 7) - Oct 22
Module 3 - April 16	Module 3 - Aug 13	Module 3 - Dec 3
Module 4 - April 23	Module 4 - Aug 20	Module 4 - Dec 10
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Full Training

January 14, 16, 17 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	July 15, 17, 18 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
March 25, 27, 28 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	September 16, 18, 19 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
May 13, 15, 16 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	November 18, 20, 21 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All Spouse Resilience Academy classes will be held in the Family Readiness Group Center.
Call (910) 396-5521 or visit www.fortbraggmwr.com to register. Limited FREE childcare available.
Must register 14 days prior to class.

Army Family Team Building 2013 Class Schedule

LEVEL I One Day
Feb 16*
July 11
Sep 14*
Nov 14
Dec 12
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LEVEL I Two Days
Jan 16, 17
Feb 6, 7
Mar 6, 7
Apr 3, 4
May 1, 2
Jun 5, 6
Aug 7, 8
Sep 4, 5
Oct 2, 3
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

LEVEL II Three Days
Jan 22, 23, 24
Apr 16, 17, 18
Jun 18, 19, 20
Jul 23, 24, 25
Oct 15, 16, 17
Dec 4, 5, 6
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

LEVEL III Three Days
Feb 19, 20, 21
May 15, 16, 17
Aug 20, 21, 22
Nov 5, 6, 7
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Marathon I, II, III
Mar 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
Sep 23, 24, 25, 26, 27
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Instructor Training Three Days
Feb 26, 27, 28
May 21, 22, 23
Aug 27, 28, 29
Nov 19, 20, 21
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Command Team Training
Mar 27, 28
Sep 18, 19
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Unit Representative Orientation
First Monday of every month
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Limited FREE childcare is available pending funding availability
Army Community Service, 3rd Floor, Soldier Support Center, Normandy Drive
(910) 396-2382
www.fortbraggmwr.com/acs/army-family-team-building/

Family Readiness Group Community Readiness Training

**Available
Now**



Online Training

Online Training is available for the following:
Key Caller
FRG Essentials
Treasurer
Commander/Rear Detachment FRG training

Visit us today

<http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/frg-online-training/>

If you have suggestions to improve the FRG, or you would like to volunteer to assist the FRG or to assume a leadership position in the FRG, then please contact Valerie Gray.

HHB, 18th Fires Brigade Family Readiness Group
Leader – Valerie Gray vdtgray@aol.com